

Appln. No. 09/748,542
Amendment dated Aug. 27, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 28, 2004
Docket No. 6169-169

IBM Docket No. JA9-1999-0251US1

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of May 28, 2004 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due.

In paragraphs 1-5 of the Office Action, claims 13-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,385,579 to Padmanabhan, *et al.* (Padmanabhan) in view of U.S. Patent 6,718,303 to Tang, *et al.* (Tang) and in further view of "Statistical Language Modeling For Speech Disfluencies" by Andreas Stolcke, *et al.* (Stolcke). In paragraph 3, the Examiner has rejected claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Padmanabhan in view of Tang and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,374,217 to Bellegarda (Bellegarda). Claims 13-15, 23-25, and 35-37 have been rejected in paragraph 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang and in view of Stolcke.

In paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action, The Examiner has indicated claims 16-22, 26-34, and 38-46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended the aforementioned claims in such a manner so that these claims should now be in an allowable state.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-15, 23-25, 35-37, and 47-48. It should be noted that these claim cancellations should be considered as having occurred without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, the aforementioned claim amendments have been made to expedite the prosecution of allowable subject matter. The amendments should not be construed as an admission on behalf of the Applicants in regard to the merits of assertions contained within the Office Action, which have been rendered moot by the claim amendments made herein. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims separately within a separate application in the future.

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In light of the above, Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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